



# Strange land



15 0 1

## Chapter 1 by Milton Laurence

There was a young Hispanic girl who couldn't find out where to go in a strange and foreign land. She couldn't understand what these strange people were saying, but she didn't like them much. Everybody stood outside all day with their underwear on display. All she wanted to do was learn this strange language so she could go to the big building on the yellow bus with all the other kids in her neighborhood. She would sit and look out the window all day as the kids would laugh and play with each other, longing to be one of them as she was at home in El Salvador. She finally made it to school, she could hardly sleep the night before with all the excitement! How should she couldn't wait to be a kid again, laughing and playing with her new friends! Sharing her native dishes with them, and teaching them Spanish! she went outside early just to be the first kid running. When the other kids came out she ran amongst them only for them to stop running and look at her funny. The kids began to laugh at her, and speak these funny words that she did not understand. Unbothered by this, she went to school awaiting her chance to try to be one of the kids again. Upon getting to school she went to class and was greeted by the teacher who began speaking words that she did not understand. Why does everyone talk funny here, she thought. After shaking her head in confusion at the teacher, she put her hand down in shame. The teacher then shook her head, and yelled something funny about going home, and not belonging shortly before another teacher took her to another classroom with other students who looked like her. She then spent the next several hours being taught dog, and cat in Spanish until she couldn't take it and ran home in tears. As soon as she got home her dad woke up from his sleep preparing for his night shift and walked straight over to her in his uniform. Expecting to be chastised by her dad from leaving school she winced at his presence. He walked over,

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